

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 8

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES TARR, Ortiz, Hannan, Tuck, Spohnholz, Zulkosky, LeDoux, Wilson, Josephson, Story, Stutes

Introduced: 4/10/19

Referred: House Special Committee on Fisheries, Resources

A RESOLUTION

Recognizing 2019 as the International Year of the Salmon and supporting an associated global initiative identifying the importance of wild salmon.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

WHEREAS the International Year of the Salmon is a global initiative to spread information and stimulate outreach and research to establish the conditions necessary to promote the resilience of wild salmon and people throughout the northern hemisphere; and

WHEREAS the International Year of the Salmon promotes understanding of wild salmon, including the present status of wild salmon and wild salmon environments; and

WHEREAS the International Year of the Salmon promotes understanding of the ways in which natural environmental variability, climate change, and human factors affect the distribution and abundance of wild salmon; and

WHEREAS the International Year of the Salmon promotes using new methods, including new technologies, ideas, and approaches in wild salmon research and performing research in poorly studied regions of the "salmosphere"; and

WHEREAS the International Year of the Salmon promotes sharing knowledge and collaborating in the development of new tools for and approaches to restoring, managing, and

1 sustaining wild salmon by communities, indigenous peoples, youth, harvesters, scientists,
2 resource managers, and policy makers across the northern hemisphere; and

3 **WHEREAS** the International Year of the Salmon promotes making available
4 historical and current data about wild salmon and wild salmon environments; and

5 **WHEREAS** wild salmon have historically been an important part of the diets,
6 economies, and cultures of people on both the east and west coasts of North America; and

7 **WHEREAS** Alaska Natives have relied on wild salmon for thousands of years, and
8 wild salmon continues to constitute up to 70 percent of the subsistence harvest in many
9 Alaska Native communities; and

10 **WHEREAS** the sustainable wild Alaska salmon commercial fishery contributes over
11 38,000 jobs and nearly \$2,000,000,000 in annual labor income to the United States economy;
12 and

13 **WHEREAS** the state's commercial wild salmon harvest constitutes approximately 50
14 percent of wild salmon caught worldwide; and

15 **WHEREAS** the wild salmon commercial and sport fishing industries in Southeast
16 Alaska, Washington, and Oregon create over \$3,400,000,000 in revenue and over 26,000 jobs
17 each year in the United States; and

18 **WHEREAS**, in British Columbia, Canada, the wild salmon commercial and sport
19 fishing industries generate over \$1,400,000,000 in revenue and 12,400 jobs each year; and

20 **WHEREAS**, in 2013 and 2014, commercial and recreational salmon fisheries in
21 California had an average annual economic effect of \$276,000,000; and

22 **WHEREAS**, in 2017, nine of the 22 chinook stocks along the west coast of the United
23 States and Canada failed to meet escapement goals agreed to by the Pacific Salmon
24 Commission; and

25 **WHEREAS** the federal government has spent over \$10,000,000,000 for wild salmon
26 recovery in the Pacific Northwest since the 1970s; and

27 **WHEREAS** 28 populations of salmon and steelhead on the west coast of the United
28 States are listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act; and

29 **WHEREAS** the health of the wild Atlantic salmon is an indicator of the general
30 environmental health of its surroundings; and

31 **WHEREAS**, in the 1970s and 1980s, as many as 900,000 Atlantic salmon returned

1 annually to the streams and rivers along the east coast of North America; in 2017, it was
2 estimated that only 496,000 Atlantic salmon spawned, and nearly all of those returned to
3 Canadian watersheds; and

4 **WHEREAS**, in the United States, where wild Atlantic salmon are listed under the
5 Endangered Species Act, only 1,041 Atlantic salmon returned to rivers in the United States in
6 2017; and

7 **WHEREAS** the federal government has spent tens of millions of dollars for wild
8 salmon recovery along the east coast of the United States, and the amount of funds that would
9 be additionally required for Atlantic salmon to recover is unknown; and

10 **WHEREAS** the International Year of the Salmon establishes a period to celebrate and
11 educate about the contributions of wild salmon to the health and economy of the state, the
12 United States, Canada, and other nations across the world and to find ways to rebuild salmon
13 stocks that are failing to meet escapement goals;

14 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the House of Representatives recognizes 2019 as the
15 International Year of the Salmon and supports the research efforts that will extend through
16 2022 as part of the global initiative; and be it

17 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the House of Representatives encourages individuals
18 and local, state, tribal, national, and international governments, corporations, and other
19 relevant organizations to work together to uphold regulatory processes that apply best
20 practices to the management of wild salmon fisheries, to support and invest in scientific
21 research to better understand the wild salmon populations of the northern hemisphere, and to
22 better manage wild salmon populations and the industries wild salmon support; and be it

23 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the House of Representatives celebrates the sustainable
24 wild salmon industry and the health and social benefits the industry provides to the United
25 States.

26 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Mike Dunleavy, Governor
27 of Alaska; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S.
28 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska
29 delegation in Congress.